



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

June, 1996

TO: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Conservation Corps--Section 13.10 Request for an Anticipated Increase  
in Corps Enrollee Support Costs--Agenda Item XVI

The Wisconsin Conservation Corps (WCC) Board requests \$150,000 GPR in 1995-96 to fund an anticipated increase in corps enrollee support costs related to an increase in the federal minimum wage.

### BACKGROUND

1995 Act 27 transferred \$150,000 GPR from WCC's corps enrollee support appropriation to the Joint Committee on Finance's appropriation for agency supplements. In addition, the WCC Board was given the authority to submit a request to the Committee under s. 13.10 to fund increased corps enrollee support costs related to an increase in the minimum wage. The WCC is statutorily required to pay its corps enrollees the higher of the state or federal minimum wage.

The WCC Board has the option to classify corps enrollees as corps members, assistant crew leaders, crew leaders or regional crew leaders. Currently, the WCC Board pays, on average, the following hourly wages: (a) \$4.25 to corps members; (b) \$5.13 to assistant crew leaders; (c) \$9.60 to crew leaders; and (d) \$12.24 to regional and mobile crew leaders. The WCC Board has approved a 2% wage increase for the six regional and mobile crew leaders, effective June 23, 1996. At that time, the regional and mobile crew leaders will be paid \$12.49 per hour.

Currently, Congress is considering legislation that would increase the federal minimum wage under a two-step process, as follows: (a) an increase from \$4.25 to \$4.75 (50¢ increase), effective July 1, 1996; and (b) an increase from \$4.75 to \$5.15 (40¢ increase), effective July 1,

1997. This proposal has passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting action by the Senate. At this time, the federal minimum wage has not been increased.

## ANALYSIS

The WCC Executive Director has estimated that the anticipated increase in the minimum wage would cost approximately \$330,000 in 1996-97. WCC would use \$180,000 in existing base funds to offset the remaining anticipated costs (\$330,000 - \$150,000 = \$180,000).

It is estimated that approximately \$400,000 could be available in unobligated GPR and SEG funding on June 30, 1997. This estimate is based on the WCC Board approving 100 projects during the 1995-97 biennium. During the Committee's deliberations over the 1995-97 biennial budget, it was estimated that the WCC would be able to approve from 82 to 92 projects in 1995-97, depending on how the WCC Board chose to utilize available funding. Several factors, in addition to funding levels, determine the level of projects the WCC Board is able to fund during a biennium. These include, but are not limited to: (a) the number of corps enrollees assigned to a crew; (b) the minimum wage and crew leader wages that are set by the Board; (c) the vacancy rate of corps enrollees; and (d) special activities approved by the Board, such as training and developmental workshops.

The Board approves projects at six meetings staggered over the biennium. The last two project approval meetings for the 1995-97 biennium will occur in August, 1996, and January, 1997. WCC's Executive Director has indicated that the Board would approve additional projects (more than the current estimate of 100) to fully utilize any available funding. Any unobligated GPR and SEG dollars would lapse to the appropriate funds on June 30, 1997.

If WCC's request to release the \$150,000 is denied, the WCC Board could fund the entire anticipated increase in corps enrollee support costs from the estimated \$400,000 unobligated balance. This action would most likely result in fewer projects being approved by the Board.

Since the minimum wage has not been increased, WCC has not yet incurred increased corps enrollee support costs. However, knowledge about the availability of funds to pay for any potential increased costs may affect project approvals in August. An alternative that transfers the \$150,000 to WCC's appropriation, but places it in unallotted reserve would provide this assurance without spending the funds if the minimum wage is not increased. DOA could be directed to release the funding only if the federal minimum wage is increased.

If the Committee denies WCC's request to release the \$150,000, the WCC Board could still approve between eighteen and eight more projects than estimated upon passage of the biennial budget (82 to 92 projects compared to the current estimate of 100 projects).

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve WCC's request for \$150,000 GPR in 1995-96 to fund an anticipated increase in corps enrollee support costs related to an increase in the federal minimum wage.
2. Modify WCC's request for \$150,000 GPR in 1995-96 to fund an anticipated increase in corps enrollee support costs by placing the funds in unallotted reserve and directing DOA to release the funds only if the federal minimum wage is increased.
3. Deny the request.

Prepared by: Bob Soldner

# STATE OF WISCONSIN

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BRIAN BURKE

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ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
BEN BRANCEL

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

July 8, 1996

Representative Marc Duff  
Senator Fred Risser  
Co-Chairs, Joint Legislative Council

Dear Representative Duff and Senator Risser:

On June 27, 1996, the Joint Committee on Finance held its regular quarterly meeting under s. 13.10 of the statutes. Based on the Committee's discussion at that meeting, we would strongly encourage the Joint Legislative Council to authorize a study of elementary and secondary (K-12) education finance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Brancel".

BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB/BB/al

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 27, 1996

Mr. James R. Klauser, Secretary  
Department of Administration  
101 E. Wilson Street, 10th Floor  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Klauser:

On June 7, 1996, you forwarded s. 16.515/.505(2) requests relating to the Department of Revenue and the Supreme Court. The Committee has no objections to these requests and, accordingly, they are approved.

With regard to the request from the Department of Administration relating to Justice Information Systems, an objection has been raised and, therefore, a meeting will be scheduled to review this request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Brancel".

BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB/BB/al

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Linda Nelson, DOA

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 25, 1996

Mr. Richard C. Wegner, Acting Secretary  
Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations  
201 East Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53707

Mr. William J. McCoshen, Secretary  
Department of Development  
123 West Washington Avenue  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Acting Secretary Wegner and Secretary McCoshen:

On June 7, 1996, a request from the Departments of Industry, Labor and Human Relations and Development for release of \$430,800 from unallotted reserve to be used for equipment and facility design services at petroleum laboratories, was submitted to the Joint Committee on Finance for approval.

It has been decided that this item should receive further review by the Committee and, therefore, a meeting will be scheduled on this item.

A handwritten signature of Brian Burke in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature of Ben Brancel in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB:BB:al

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Linda Nelson, DOA  
Bob Lang

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 21, 1996

Mr. Joseph Lekan, Secretary  
Department of Health and Social Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Lekan:

On May 31, 1996, the Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) sent a letter to the Joint Committee on Finance certifying that an estimated \$77,120,000 will be available for the property tax relief fund from the Department's intergovernmental transfer program (\$52,400,000) and federal waiver savings (\$24,720,000) that will accrue during the 1995-97 biennium. The property tax relief fund was created under 1995 Wisconsin Act 213.

Act 213 specifies that the additional revenues certified by H&SS will be transferred to the property tax relief fund on June 30, 1997, if within 14 working days after receiving the certification of these amounts, the Co-chairs of the Committee do not notify the Secretaries of H&SS and DOA that the Committee has scheduled a meeting for the purpose of reviewing the certification.

This letter is to notify you that the Committee has not scheduled a meeting to review the May 31 certification and that the \$77,120,000 amount certified by the Department will be transferred to the property tax relief fund on June 30, 1997, in accordance with Act 213.

Handwritten signature of Brian Burke in black ink.

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ben Brancel in black ink.

BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB/BB/kc

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Secretary James Klauser, Department of Administration

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 21, 1996

Charles H. Thompson, Secretary  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 120B  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

Dear Secretary Thompson:

I am writing to express my concern over continued delays in state funding for the scheduled restructuring of West Lisbon Avenue (USH 41) between N. 46<sup>th</sup> and W. Appleton, as well as work on South Layton Boulevard (USH 41 & STH 57) from W. Evergreen to W. Lincoln, in Milwaukee.

As you know, I've written to you before on these matters. Moreover, I've always been supportive of the Department's revenue requests in the past.

In my opinion, the most recently proposed funding delays found in the Department's 6-year plan are unacceptable. These connecting highways are in need of immediate attention, and work should begin soon.

One of the Department's top priorities should be maintaining and rehabilitating existing roads. If funding shortfalls exist, new projects are the ones that should be delayed.

Thanks for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke", written in a cursive style.

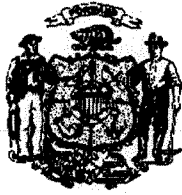
BRIAN BURKE  
State Senator



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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

June 19, 1996

The Honorable Joseph Leean, Secretary  
Department of Health and Social Services  
One West Wilson, Room 650  
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAIL

Dear Secretary Leean:

In a memo date May 15, 1996 to county officials from Gerald Born, counties were notified of a possible reduction in Community Aids based upon federal budgetary cutbacks in the federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). In Mr. Born's memo, he indicated that the Department of Health and Social Services is examining alternative revenue sources which could potentially offset a portion of the SSBG reduction to counties. I am writing to request an update from you as to the progress the Department has made in identifying offsetting revenue.

As you know, counties have not received an inflationary increase in their Community Aids allocation for several years. I am very concerned that this unexpected reduction will further erode the services that counties provide to our most vulnerable citizens.

It is my sincere desire that the State locate funds to provide to counties to avoid any further reduction in human services programs.

I appreciate your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to learning of the Department's status in locating these funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE  
Co-Chairman  
Joint Finance Committee

BB/ckm



## STATE OF WISCONSIN \ ETHICS BOARD

James R. Morgan  
Chairman  
Paul M. Holzem  
David L. McRoberts  
Robert G. Borgwardt  
Joanne R. Orr  
Dorothy C. Johnson

On the capitol square at:  
44 EAST MIFFLIN STREET  
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53703-2800  
608 266-8123

August 16, 1996

R. Roth Judd  
Executive Director

Senator Brian Burke  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI INTER-D

Representative Ben Brancel  
Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Finance  
State Capitol  
Madison, WI INTER-D

Re: Likely request for supplemental  
appropriation under § 13.101(3),  
*Wisconsin Statutes*

Dear Senator Burke and Representative Brancel:

From time to time matters involving possible violations of the lobbying law and ethics code come to the Ethics Board's attention and merit the Board's review. The Board investigates most of these matters using existing staff resources. However, the Legislature has not made available an appropriation that permits the Board to carryout its statutory directive to investigate these matters when that requires the hiring of special investigative assistance.

I am writing to confirm that the Joint Committee on Finance asks the Board:

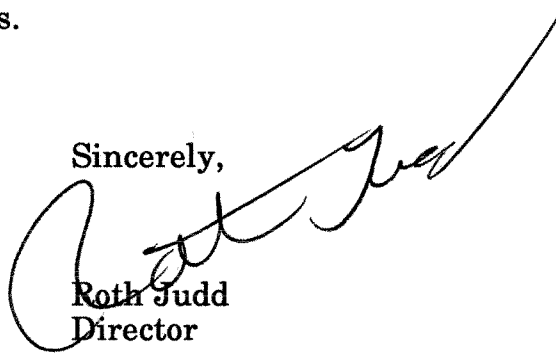
1. To proceed to incur expenses in connection with the investigation of possible violations of the lobbying law and ethics code and those laws' enforcement,

Senator Brian Burke  
Representative Ben Brancel  
August 16, 1996  
Page 2

2. To keep the co-chairs informed of costs the Ethics Board incurs as investigations proceed, and
3. That to meet the actual, established financial obligations the Ethics Board has incurred for work completed for this purpose, to request supplemental funding from the Joint Committee at one or more of the Joint Committee's regular meetings under §13.10 as the co-chairs find appropriate during this fiscal year.

I shall welcome your instructions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Roth Judd", is written over the typed name and title. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail that extends upwards and to the right.

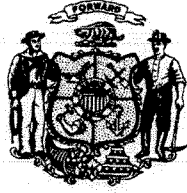
Roth Judd  
Director

cc: Bob Lang, Legislative Fiscal Bureau  
Terry Rhodes, Legislative Fiscal Bureau  
Dan Caucutt, Committee Secretary  
Pam Henning, Dept. of Administration

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

September 11, 1996

Mr. R. Roth Judd, Executive Director  
Ethics Board  
44 East Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Director Judd:

This letter is in response to your letter of August 16, 1996, in which you requested confirmation from us that the Joint Committee on Finance wishes the Ethics Board to, consistent with the practice in prior years, request any supplemental funding under ss. 13.101 and/or 16.515 of the Statutes for the cost of possible violations of the state ethics code and/or lobbying law only after the actual costs of all such investigations for the fiscal year are known.

We concur that the Ethics Board should: (1) incur such investigation expenses as the Board finds are required; (2) provide a quarterly report to the Co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance regarding the costs being incurred for any such investigations; and (3) in the event that the Board incurs a need for supplemental funding due to any such investigation costs, to submit a request for supplemental funding for this fiscal year (1996-97) in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year once all investigation costs for the year have been incurred.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Brancel".

BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB/BB/jc

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Dan Caucutt, DOA

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

December 23, 1996

Governor Tommy Thompson  
Room 115 East, State Capitol  
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Thompson:

On November 27, 1996, the Joint Committee on Finance received your request, pursuant to 1995 Wisconsin Act 132, relating to the expenditure of federal block grants under the temporary assistance to needy families (TANF) program. The November 27 request also notified the Committee of the administration's intent for the Department of Workforce Development to implement the following changes to the current AFDC program to facilitate the transition to the Wisconsin Works program in 1997:

- Replace the current AFDC asset limit of \$1,000 with the \$2,500 limit under the W-2 program and eliminate the special resource account and vehicle exclusion waivers for new applicants.
- Apply the AFDC benefit cap provisions to all new applicants.
- Eliminate the current two-tier provision in Kenosha, Milwaukee, Racine and Rock Counties and, instead, implement the 60-day residency requirement that is provided under the W-2 program in those counties.
- Require AFDC recipients who have a child older than 12 weeks but younger than one year to attend parenting and work participation classes. Require new applicants for AFDC who have a child under age one to immediately attend parenting and work participation classes and to begin job search activities when the child is nine months old.

Governor Tommy Thompson

December 23, 1996

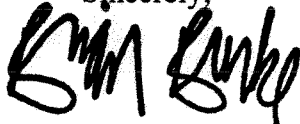
Page 2

- Provide that no new independent living arrangements for teen parents will be approved under the current AFDC program.

Under your proposal, most of these changes would take effect in January, 1997. However, the modifications to the two-tier demonstration project would take effect on March 1, 1997. These changes would be implemented without adopting statutory modifications or administrative rules.

The request was reviewed by attorneys at the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Legislative Council. These reviews raise questions regarding the Department's legal authority to implement the proposed changes. Because of these concerns, we request that the administration provide us with a detailed summary of its position on this issue. In addition, we request that the administration not proceed with implementing the proposed changes until we have had an opportunity to review the administration's response.

Sincerely,



BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair



BEN BRANCEL  
Assembly Chair

BB/BB/jc

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Dick Wegner, Department of Workforce Development  
Jean Rogers, Department of Workforce Development

# JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



**SENATE CHAIR  
BRIAN BURKE**

January 9, 1997

Ms. Linda Stewart, Secretary  
Department of Workforce Development  
201 E. Washington Avenue  
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Secretary Stewart:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 1997, regarding the proposed modifications to the AFDC program that the administration plans to implement during the transition period to Wisconsin Works (W-2). I have reviewed your letter and have asked attorneys from the Legislative Council and the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to review the letter.

The Legislative Council and LRB attorneys indicate that your response does not resolve the legal questions regarding the administration's authority to implement these changes without statutory modifications or administrative rules. Specifically, the LRB attorney still believes that statutory changes would be needed for most of the proposed modifications. The Legislative Council attorney believes that it is unclear whether statutory modifications are necessary. However, it appears that administrative rules would be needed for these types of program changes.

The W-2 initiative represents a major change in the state's public assistance programs, and it is important for the state to implement the new program in an orderly and efficient manner. However, because of the legal concerns outlined above, I would urge the administration to not proceed with the proposed changes without adopting statutory modifications or administrative rules.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Governor Tommy G. Thompson

# JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE



**SENATE CHAIR  
BRIAN BURKE**

January 29, 1997

Secretary Mark Bugher  
Department of Administration  
101 East Wilson Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Secretary Bugher:

I am writing to you concerning the implementation of the Department of Administration's Low Income Energy Assistance Pilot projects. As you may know, the Joint Committee on Finance is currently reviewing the One Stop Shop for Services Pilot Program which we received on January 13, 1997.

The Committee has been working with the Department of Administration on an ongoing basis to ensure that these pilot projects are implemented in the most effective manner possible. Specifically, the Committee has required that administrative costs, including staff support and program delivery costs, not exceed 15% of the total oil overcharge funds allocated to an individual pilot. Additionally, the Committee has submitted various requests for additional information intended assist us in our review process.

My office recently received a phone call from Patrick Meier, from the Bureau of Energy at DOA, regarding the Committee's ongoing correspondence with the Department on this matter. Mr. Meier called to discuss the Committee's approach to reviewing these items and to inquire about the nature of their repeated requests for follow-up information as well as their modifications. He seemed to imply that the Committee was taking an unusual approach to the review process and that our well-intended recommendations were instead part of some other agenda.

I hope that this individual does not reflect the attitude of the entire Department on this important matter. The Committee is most certainly concerned about the status of these pilot programs and hopes that they can be implemented soon in a manner which will benefit the greatest number of Wisconsin citizens in need of low income energy services. Our job is to implement quality programs at the lowest possible cost. In an effort to have productive discussions concerning these matters, I hope that any future challenges concerning the Committee's methodology emanating from DOA be raised directly by you.

You should feel free to contact me if you have additional questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Co-Chair

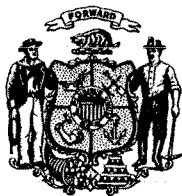
BBB/jec



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ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**SCOTT JENSEN**

315 North, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 11, 1997

Ms. Cate Zeuske, Secretary  
Department of Revenue  
125 South Webster Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Secretary Zeuske:

In your budget testimony to the Joint Committee on Finance on March 25, 1997, you indicated that your Department would prepare a plan to address concerns relating to the state lottery. You also stated that the plan would be submitted to the Committee for use in our 1997-99 budget deliberations.

In order to provide the Committee with adequate time to address the needs of the state lottery, we would like you to submit the plan to the Committee by Friday, April 25, 1997. We appreciate your responsiveness in this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brian Burke in black ink.

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of Scott Jensen in black ink.

SCOTT JENSEN  
Assembly Chair

BB/SJ/jc

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Richard Chandler  
Bob Lang

# STATE OF WISCONSIN

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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

July 31, 1997

Mr. R. Roth Judd, Executive Director  
Ethics Board  
44 East Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Director Judd:

This letter is in response to your letter of July 28, 1997, in which you requested confirmation from us that the Joint Committee on Finance wishes the Ethics Board to, consistent with the practice in prior years, request any supplemental funding under ss. 13.101 and/or 16.515 of the Statutes for the cost of possible violations of the state ethics code and/or lobbying law only after the actual costs of all such investigations for the fiscal year are known.

We concur that the Ethics Board should: (1) incur such investigation expenses as the Board finds are required; (2) periodically report to the Co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Finance regarding the costs being incurred for any such investigations; and (3) in the event that the Board incurs a need for supplemental funding due to any such investigation costs, to submit a request for supplemental funding for this fiscal year (1997-98) in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year once all investigation costs for the year have been incurred. We specifically request that you provide us with a written report each quarter regarding any investigative costs being incurred by the Board.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Burke".

BRIAN BURKE  
Senate Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Jensen". Above the signature, the word "Sincerely," is written in a smaller, cursive script.

SCOTT JENSEN  
Assembly Chair

BB/SJ/jc

cc: Members, Joint Committee on Finance  
Dan Caucutt, DOA